



2025 SGA Elections

Election Date: Tuesday, April 8th, 2025

Election Time: 10:00am – 6:00pm

Elections held at: Runway.utm.edu

SGA Elections Commissioner

Ethan Bell - ebell27@ut.utm.edu

2025 SGA Election Debate

Monday, March 31st, 2025

6:00pm – University Center Room 111

2025 SGA Election Candidates

2025 SGA Elections - Captain's Council Party

Bailey	Parker	President	College of Business and Global Affairs
Ella	Self	Vice President	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Chayil	Watkins	Secretary General	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Emma	Allen	Press Secretary	College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences
Darby	Self	UT Martin Advisory Board Student Representative	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Chole	Brasher	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Sydney	Campbell	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Lacy	Collier	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Luke	Stepney	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Abigail	Willard	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Paris	Hodge	Senator	College of Business and Global Affairs
Ashlee	Mallon	Senator	College of Business and Global Affairs
Jena	Melton	Senator	College of Business and Global Affairs
Emily	Potts	Senator	College of Business and Global Affairs
Madison	Jones	Senator	College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences
Katelyn	Ramsey	Senator	College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences
Sydney	Vinson	Senator	College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences
Arlena	Ferrell	Senator	College of Engineering and Natural Sciences
Corey	Moore	Senator	College of Engineering and Natural Sciences
Leah	Repp	Senator	College of Engineering and Natural Sciences
Avery	Rochelle	Senator	College of Engineering and Natural Sciences
Liberty	Borowiak	Senator	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Madison	Boyd	Senator	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Tamera	Harden	Senator	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Sara	Igo	Senator	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Hattie	Johnson	Senator	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Grant	Kilen	Senator	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Anthony	Lain	Senator	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Gwendelynne	Nelson	Senator	College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Darby	Self	Senator	College of Humanities and Fine Arts

2025 SGA Elections - UTM Ignite Party

Preston	Pooler	President	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Scarlett	Cook	Vice President	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Kayla	Payne	Press Secretary	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Haley	Goff	Secretary General	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Joseph	Case	UT Martin Advisory Board Student Representative	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Joseph	Case	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science

Cadence	Gregg	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Brandon	Keen	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Cooper	Moss	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Julie	Peoples	Senator	College of Agriculture and Applied Science
Kayce	Carlough	Senator	College of Business and Global Affairs
Kathryn	Batey	Senator	College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences
Hailee	Gunter	Senator	College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences

2025 SGA Elections - Independent Candidates

Jordan	Holt	Senator	College of Business and Global Affairs
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Executive Officer Candidate Bios

Captain's Council Party

President – Bailey Parker

Fellow UT Martin students,

My name is Bailey Parker, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for Student Government Association (SGA) Student Body President. Over the past two years, I have had the honor of serving our student body through SGA in various capacities, including as Freshman Council President and currently as Chief of Staff.

As Freshman Council President, I facilitated the planning and execution of the Freshman Council Retro Rewind where we collected around one thousand school supplies to be donated to Martin Middle School. As Chief of Staff I assist with the current Freshman Council and planning of a College Forum.

I am delighted to announce that I am running with the Captain's Council party, and our slogan is, "Empower, Elevate, and Engage." My goal if elected president is to ensure that every UT Martin student feels empowered, elevated, and engaged in their university experience. Together, we can create a vibrant and inclusive campus community where every voice is heard and valued.

Join me in this journey to make a positive impact on our campus and let's work together to empower, elevate, and engage! Thank you for considering my candidacy!

Gratefully,

Bailey Parker

Candidate for Student Body President



Vice President – Ella Self

Fellow UT Martin students,

I am honored to present myself as a candidate for the position of Student Body Vice President. These past couple of years, I have been able to serve my campus as a part of Freshman Council and the Campus Opportunities Committee Co-Chair where I was then able to move into my position as a Senator for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and Campus Opportunities Committee Chair.

My current role in SGA as Campus Opportunities Committee Chair has provided me with the opportunity to learn how to plan and run campus-wide events including Student Appreciation Week, the SGA Thrift Store, and the Student-Owned Small Business Fair. Various Student Appreciation Week events, like that of giveaways and campus drive-in movie nights, have provided me with a unique opportunity to interact with students and get their feedback on SGA events and programming.

I am pleased to announce I am running with the Captain's Council party, and our slogan is, "Empower, Elevate, and Engage." My vision for the role of Vice President is to ensure that every student attending UT Martin feels empowered, elevated, and engaged by their campus community. Together, we can make sure every voice is heard and valued.

Outside of SGA, I pride myself on my involvement within various organizations such as Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity, University Scholars Organization, Student Alumni Council, RISE Scholars, and the League of Striving Artists. I have been able to serve my campus community as a SOAR (Student Orientation and Registration) Leader and as a PEP (Peer Enabling Peer) Leader. If granted the opportunity to serve as the Student Body Vice President, I would strive to make sure that every student across campus has the opportunity to feel a sense of belonging and community both within and outside of student organizations.

Thank you for considering my candidacy! Together we can work to make sure that every student is empowered, elevated, and engaged by their UT Martin experience.

Ella Self

Candidate for Student Body Vice President



Secretary General – Chayil Watkins

Hello, fellow students! My name is Chayil Watkins, and I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for Student Government Association (SGA) Secretary General. Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving in SGA in multiple leadership roles, including Freshman Council Vice President and currently as a Student Advisory Board Representative. These experiences have deepened my passion for student advocacy and strengthened my commitment to making a meaningful impact on our campus.

I am proud to be running as part of the Captain's Council party, where our mission is clear: Empower, Elevate, and Engage. If elected, I will work tirelessly to ensure that every student's voice is heard and that SGA remains an accessible, responsive, and proactive force for positive change.

Beyond my work in SGA, I am actively involved in Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity, RISE Scholars, Black Student Association, MANRRS, NAACP, Rotaract, Men of Excellence, and serve as a SOAR Leader. These experiences have allowed me to engage with a diverse range of students and better understand the needs of our campus community.

Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive, and more engaged student body. I invite you to join me on this journey as we work to empower, elevate, and engage our campus like never before. Thank you for considering my candidacy!

Chayil Watkins

Candidate for Student Body Secretary General



Press Secretary – Emma Allen

Hello fellow students! My name is Emma Allen, and I am ecstatic to present myself as a candidate for the position of the Student Government Association's (SGA) Press Secretary. In my past two years in SGA, I started as a Freshman Council Member and I now serve as a senator for the College of Behavioral Health and Education.

I am running with the Captain's Council party, and our slogan is, "Empower, Elevate and Engage". My goal is to make sure that every student at UTM feels like they have a voice and ensure they can use it. As well as making sure students are up to date with our social media pages so that they never feel like they do not know what is going on at our campus. Outside of SGA I am a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated, The NAACP, Honors College, RISEScholars, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and the Black Student Association. In these clubs I was able to develop leadership and problem solving skills.

Join me in this journey to make a positive impact on our campus and let's work together to Empower, Elevate, and Engage! Thank you for considering my candidacy!

Emma Allen

Candidate for Student Body Press Secretary



UTM Ignite Party

President: Preston Pooler

My name is Preston Pooler. I'm an Agriculture Business major. Originally from Paris, TN I came to UT Martin to experience a small town college experience with a lot of possibilities. I've been blessed to be in many student organizations like Student Government and hope that I can continue growing personally and professionally through classes and organizations at The University of Tennessee at Martin. I'm excited to be running for Student Body President with UTM Ignite! I hope we can continue to make a difference that the students at UTM want.



Vice President - Scarlett Cook

Hello! My name is Scarlett Cook and I am so excited to be running for the Student Body Vice President with UTM Ignite! I am currently majoring in both Veterinary Science and Veterinary Technology with plans to obtain my doctorate in veterinary medicine. I'm so thankful I made the decision to come to UTM. This campus has given me so many friendships, life changing opportunities and a home away from home. I am involved in several campus organizations like SGA and I hope to be able to leave a positive impact that will continue to push students to strive to be their best self. I am so excited to run for another year of opportunity to be a voice for the student body!



Secretary General: Haley Goff

Hey everyone, my name is Haley Goff! I am a pre-veterinary science student with a minor in agriculture business. I chose UTM because when I toured, I immediately felt at home, and I hope that through student government I can help more people also feel welcome and at home. I have been blessed to be very involved with campus life - joining many organizations including student government. This would be my third year being involved with student government, and I am very excited to be able to continue making a difference on campus!



Press Secretary: Kayla Payne

My name is Kayla Payne, and I'm a sophomore Agriculture Education major from East Tennessee. I am pleased to announce my running for Student Government Press Secretary along with the UTM Ignite party. I believe in the power of student voices, and I want to help make sure everyone's ideas and concerns are heard. With my background in agriculture and dedication to leadership, I'm excited to serve the UTM community and make a positive impact through student government.



Party Campaign Platforms

Captain's Council Party

Empower

- Peer Support Groups: Establish peer-led support groups to provide students with a safe space to share experiences, seek advice, and build a supportive community.
- Financial Literacy: Implement workshops and resources to help students manage their finances, understand student loans, and plan for their financial future.
- Leadership Development: Create leadership development programs to empower students with the skills and confidence needed to take on leadership roles within the university and beyond.
- Mentorship Programs: Pair students with mentors from various fields to provide guidance, support, and career advice.

Elevate

- Early Alert System: Develop an early alert system to identify and support students who may be struggling academically or personally, ensuring they receive the help they need to succeed.
- SI Expansion: Expand Supplemental Instruction (SI) programs to offer more sessions and subjects, providing additional academic support and enhancing student learning outcomes.
- Scholarship Opportunities: Advocate for increased scholarship opportunities to help alleviate the financial burden on students and support their academic pursuits.
- Academic Resources: Enhance access to academic resources such as tutoring, study materials, and online learning tools to support student success.

Engage

- Transparency: Foster transparency within the SGA by regularly communicating with students about decisions, initiatives, and progress, ensuring that their voices are heard and valued.
- Increased Student Engagement: Organize more events and activities that bring students together, encourage participation in campus life, and create a vibrant, inclusive community.
- Community Service: Promote and organize community service projects that allow students to give back to the local community and develop a sense of civic responsibility.
- Student Feedback Channels: Establish clear channels for students to provide feedback and suggestions, ensuring their input is considered in decision-making processes.

UTM Ignite Party

Campus Safety

Transparency & Communication

Career Readiness - Promote for internship opportunities and networking events

Tuition & Fees Advocacy- Ensure tuition and fees remain affordable for students